

THE IMPROVED ORDER OF
RED MEN



*"An American Fraternity
for the American People"*

IMPROVED ORDER OF RED MEN

EXPRESSING BRIEFLY THE
PRINCIPLES, THE PURPOSES
AND THE ADVANTAGES OF
THIS PATRIOTIC AND
BENEFICIAL FRATERNITY



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FACTS *about the*

Improved Order of Red Men



IT is one of the largest American fraternities, having over 500,000 members.

Its founders were the patriots of 1776.

It exists only under the American Flag.

It eliminates all class distinction.

It requires no obligation interfering with your religious or political beliefs.

It is dedicated to the preservation of American traditions.

It cares for its sick and distressed, buries its dead.

Its precepts inspire all with the spirit of fraternal love and good fellowship.

It subscribes to the broad principle that all men are equal and what a man is, not what he possesses, constitutes his claim for recognition among the brotherhood.

It is patriotic, charitable, humanitarian, beneficial, social, educational and non-sectarian.

It seeks by associated effort to do that which individual effort could never accomplish.

It has 5,000 branches in every State, territory and possession of the United States and there only.

More than half a million members, the flower of this great, industrious free people, cheerfully give to it their voluntary, loving allegiance.

A N A M E R I C A N O R D E R

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT was adopted into the Order on January 11th, 1930, while Governor of New York State. The ceremony being conferred in the executive mansion at Albany.

It numbers in its membership ex-presidents of the United States, senators, congressmen, judges, governors, army and navy officers, bankers, merchants, manufacturers, doctors, lawyers, clergymen, clerks and all other classes of respectable citizens.

The primary objects and purposes of the Order are to promote among men the exercise and practice of the true principles of benevolence and charity.

The care and protection of the widows and orphans of its members.

To lessen the burdens and relieve the sufferings of those who surround us.

The cultivation of friendly relations with all of those who have entered its circles.

The teaching of patriotism, love of Country, allegiance to the Flag and Union, and obedience to the law.

The Improved Order of Red Men appeals to the patriotic sentiments of the American people because of its origin, its traditions and its ceremonies.

Its ritualistic ceremonies, like the Order itself, are purely American. Founded upon the manners, customs and traditions of the North American Indian.

It portrays in an educational manner their habits and peculiarities and will give to posterity its only realistic demonstration of the fascinating beauties of their mystic ceremonies.

FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

As the historian of an extinct race and the repository of its traditions, the Improved Order of Red Men assumes responsibility for the preservation of their forms and customs.

The Government of our Order is National, State, and Local. It is the most democratic of all fraternities in that every member has a voice and vote in its government.

Local tribes have sole jurisdiction in the enactment of laws for their own government with limited restriction from the national organization.

Local tribes may organize as beneficial or non-beneficial as they desire. If it be beneficial, the members of the tribe will determine the amount of dues to be paid and the benefits they are to receive within certain limits as fixed by the national body.

Located in the many cities and towns throughout the State of New York there are nearly three hundred fifty tribes and auxiliary branches representing the Improved Order of Red Men.



A N A M E R I C A N O R D E R

THE IMPROVED ORDER
OF RED MEN was
founded in 1773—prior to
the birth of this nation. It
has helped its members in
distress and buried
the dead.



AN AMERICAN FRATERNITY
FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE



FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

HISTORY *of the* Improved Order of Red Men



ONLY the briefest mention of the bare facts of the Order's history can be made in this booklet, the object of which is to enlighten the public and effect a better understanding of the origin, objects and principles of the oldest American fraternity, the Improved Order of Red Men.

It was born in Patriotism, matured in Freedom, inspired in Friendship and consecrated in Charity.

One of the four largest fraternal societies and the oldest and largest strictly American Fraternity is the Improved Order of Red Men.

First incorporated in 1835, it has an honorable and enviable record of more than one hundred years.

Prior to the American Revolution and during the Revolution and during the War of 1812, there existed numerous organizations, social and patriotic, known as Sons of Liberty, Red Men, and Tamina Societies. It was the Sons of Liberty who, in 1773, emptied the King's Tea into Boston Harbor. These societies were active and influential throughout the period of the Revolution. From these societies crystallized the Improved Order of Red Men.

When the Sons of Liberty merged into the Societies of St. Tamina, from 1771 to

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1800, the love of country and the conservation of liberty were still the guiding impulse. In 1813 it took on another form, in the Society of Red Men, formed at Fort Mifflin, as shown in the historic archives of the Order. Under this name it continued for nearly twenty years with a proud record of fraternity and benevolence. For causes that in like manner affected all similar organizations of that period, from 1828 to 1832, the society of Red Men languished and became nearly extinct.

In 1833 members who had been active gathered a few of the smouldering embers of the dimly burning council brand and kindled the council fire of the Improved Order of Red Men in the city of Baltimore, Maryland, and added to its patriotic features the charitable and benevolent work of its present ministrations.

Its ritualistic ceremonies are purely American, original and distinctive, and give to posterity its only conception of the manners, customs, and traditions of the American Indian.

We teach the true American citizen, when accepted into our covenant of faith, that the Degrees of the Improved Order of Red Men are representative of a race whose ceremonies in their forest homes were elevating and contained lessons that bound them together, as they do us, in the bonds of Unity and good fellowship.

The Improved Order of Red Men is a secret society, yet there is nothing in its ritual or laws that debars man or woman on account of creed or nativity. Each member must be a white citizen of the United

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States, a believer in the Supreme Being and able to earn a livelihood and of good reputation and character. Strictly fraternal and benevolent in its purposes, the Order teaches lessons that elevate and instill into the hearts and minds of its members true Friendship, Patriotism and the care of our dependents, as well as the good traits of the aboriginal North American Indian.

The Charity of the Improved Order of Red Men does not consist wholly in the giving of alms. We have systematic relief to which every member is entitled when sick or in distress unless he has waived benefits.

We assist and encourage our members in health as well as in adversity. All classes of men, all trades and callings and all professions come to the Order. Its democracy is one of its greatest charms. Its government is strictly representative and elective.

The Tribe has charge of the Order in its respective jurisdiction and to the Tribe all applications for membership must be made.

State Great Councils, formed of a number of Tribes, are composed of the representatives from Tribes within the State.

The Great Council of the United States, incorporated under an act of Congress, is the representative or legislative branch of the entire Order and is composed of the representatives from State Great Councils.

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Qualifications for Membership

The conditions upon which a person may become a member of this Order are such as are herein named, and no other.

He must be a citizen of the United States and a believer in the Supreme Being, or Great Spirit.

He must be a white person and of good moral character, and must have some known reputable means of support.

And must be able to speak and understand the English language and sound in mind and body.

And not under eighteen nor more than fifty years of age. A dispensation must be obtained to admit persons over fifty years as beneficial members.

He must have resided within the reservation (State) six months previous to making application, and must not have been rejected in a Tribe of the Order within the previous six months.

A maimed person cannot become a member of the Order as a beneficial member except by dispensation.

DEGREES OF THE ORDER

The ritualistic work consists of three degrees, viz: Adoption, Warriors' and Chiefs' Degrees.

A one degree ritual is provided which combines all three degrees into one, which Tribes may use if they so desire.

The impressive lessons taught in the De-

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degrees inspire men to lead a better existence. The forms, ceremonies, and lectures used in conferring the Degrees are highly interesting and instructive, free from anything of a frivolous or objectionable character. The instructions given are part of the essential elements that go to make up a secret society, and they are conferred upon all who become members that they may come to a correct understanding of the basis upon which the Order is built.

Organization

With over three hundred Tribes and auxiliary branches located in cities and towns throughout our State, it may be said that the Improved Order of Red Men needs no introduction to most localities. However, we are interested in further expansion. Redmanship should be in every home. In every village of 300 or more population, there should be a Tribe of the Improved Order of Red Men.

Reputable men of good character everywhere should be interested in becoming members of a fraternity that has expended over fifty million dollars for the relief of its members and the care of its orphans.

If there is no tribe located in your locality write at once for full information on how to organize a Tribe. Personal assistance will be given if desired. Literature and petition forms will be furnished upon request.

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How to Organize a Tribe

To organize a Tribe which may have both beneficial and non-beneficial members, the first step is to obtain the names of not less than thirty good, moral, white citizens of eighteen years of age and upward, who believe in the existence of a Supreme Being. Great care should be used in selecting the petitioners in order that the membership may be composed of men of high moral and physical qualifications.

As soon as the required number (fifty) of signers to the petition for a charter have been obtained, a preliminary meeting should be held and a temporary Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer chosen. The Adoption Fee must be collected from each applicant in full. No applicants should be allowed to take any part in the preliminary meetings unless they have paid the required fee.

While not compulsory to ballot on each applicant at the preliminary meeting, it is advisable to do so. The petitioners must select for the new tribe an Indian name, which should be that of some aboriginal tribe, or some title, designation, or word common to their locality.

Sometime prior to the date selected for institution of the tribe a complete set of chiefs must be selected by the petitioners at a subsequent preliminary meeting. The officers to be chosen are Sachem, Senior Sagamore, Junior Sagamore, Prophet, Chief of Records, Collector of Wampum, and Keeper of Wampum. After a Sachem has been elected he shall fill the following

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appointed chieftancies. Two Sannaps, two Guards, four Warriors, and four Braves.

When preliminary arrangements have been complied with, the petition for a charter together with the charter fee of \$30.00 should be forwarded to the Great Chief of Records whose duty it is to place same promptly before the Great Sachem. If it be determined to accede to the request of the petitioners, the Great Chief of Records will forward on to the new Tribe the necessary supplies to enable it to kindle a council fire and hold meetings.

The petitioners shall obtain a suitable meeting hall and select a date upon which the institution of the Tribe is to take place.

Additional applicants may be added to the charter list up to the institution of the Tribe after which no further additions can be made.

The Great Chief of Records will designate a competent degree team to be present to exemplify the degree ceremonies.

The Great Sachem, or some member designated by him, will be present to act as Institution Chief.

The first Prophet, Sachem, Senior Sagamore and Junior Sagamore will be created Past Sachems by dispensation, provided they serve for the full and complete term for which they were elected.

The duties of all tribal chiefs shall be as defined by the Constitution and Law, or by the Rituals of the Order.

The number that is to be assigned to each new Tribe will be supplied by the Great Chief of Records.

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The expenses incidental to institution, as well as the charter fee, are to be paid from the receipts by the new Tribe.

Former members of the Order who are out of the Order for the non-payment of dues or by reason of resignation or withdrawal may be reinstated upon application, or may become members of a new Tribe being formed, by obtaining a dismissal certificate from the Tribe of which they were former members. In the event that the Tribe is no longer in existence a card may be obtained from the Great Chief of Records upon request by the payment of one dollar.

Each new Tribe instituted will be placed under the special supervision of the Organization Department of the Great Council of New York for one Great Sun (year) in order that it may receive a proper training in the Laws and Ritual of the Order.

For the guidance of New Tribes a set of model By-Laws may be obtained from the Great Council of New York, upon request. These are a great convenience to a new organization and will save time and labor.



THE LARGEST FRATERNAL SOCIETY OF
PURELY AMERICAN ORIGIN



THE IMPROVED ORDER OF
RED MEN

FRATERNAL
BENEVOLENT
CHARITABLE



Beautiful, Instructive
Ceremonies



Founded on Customs and Traditions
of the Aboriginal North
American Indian



Its Objects
PATRIOTISM - GOODFELLOWSHIP
BROTHERHOOD - MUTUAL HELP



Its Motto
FREEDOM - FRIENDSHIP
CHARITY

Membership in
The Improved Order of
Red Men
Means Protection for
Government, Flag
and Home

